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UPDATE FROM CONGRESSMAN **ELIOT ENGEL**

Working to Help the People of
Haiti



Congressman Eliot Engel discussing conditions and the need for additional American assistance with residents of Port-au-Prince during his visit in March. As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Eliot Engel also met with Haitian government and aid officials.



March 2010

Dear Neighbor:

This month, I traveled to Haiti as part of a Congressional delegation to review the impact of American aid and the need for additional assistance to help the people of Haiti.

I was prepared for the devastation, but to see it with my own eyes the level of destruction was beyond what I anticipated. There were thousands on the streets. They have lost their homes, families, friends and jobs. Tens of thousands are living in tent cities. At the same time there are signs of hope and progress.

I cannot tell you how deeply moved I was at the strength and determination of the Haitian people as they deal with the earthquake's devastation and loss of life.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, **I will act in Congress to secure the resources needed to accelerate Haiti's recovery.** America will stand by Haiti, and Haiti will recover.

In Congress, I co-sponsored the law to **allow people to deduct 2010 contributions for the relief of victims of the earthquake in Haiti on their 2009 tax returns.** Under this law, people who donated via text message need only phone records to claim their deductions. Over \$22 million was donated by texting.

I led Members of Congress from New York in asking President Obama to **grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian nationals living in the United States**, which the President did. I brought federal officials to my Rockland Office for a special TPS informational meeting for public officials and Rockland's Haitian community leaders.

I am working to secure **additional education funds from the Refugee School Impact Grant Program for local school districts** to assist in paying the costs of providing education to displaced Haitian and Haitian-American children.

In addition, I have asked that the United States government **support Haitian debt cancellation by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other international agencies**, and have co-sponsored the **Haitian Emergency Life Protection Act** to allow Haitians with approved immigration petitions to join their relatives in America.

As your Member of Congress, I will continue my work in Washington to help the people of Haiti recover from this tragedy.

Eliot L. Engel, Member of Congress



Congressman Eliot Engel

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